

# UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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Good morning co-chairs and members of the Public Health, Insurance and Real Estate and Human Services Committees,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,000 members serve in 50 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **SUPPORT** of **H.B. 6582 AA ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP**.

As employees of Connecticut's municipalities, fire fighters are concerned with the economic health of our communities. This bill offers towns and cities the opportunity to provide their employees top quality health care while saving residents thousands of dollars in premiums.

Health care is one of the major issues facing our society and we must identify a way to ensure that all citizens have access to quality healthcare. With healthcare costs skyrocketing, giving municipalities the opportunity to enter the state employee healthcare pool is a very important first step to control costs and provide service. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Fire fighters urge your support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault  
Legislative/Political Affairs